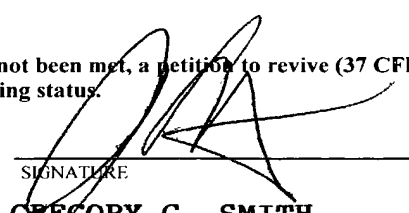


FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>A96158US (32831/11US)</b>	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	
				<b>09/914402</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/US97/11261</b>		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>27 June 1997 (27.06.97)</b>		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>27 June 1996 (27.06.96)</b>	
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>WATER TREATMENT DEVICE AND METHOD</b>					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>HOLCOMB, Robert R.</b>					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p> <p><b>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p>					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.51) <b>09/914402</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/US97/11261</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>A96158US (32831/11US)</b>	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO..... <b>\$1000.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$860.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... <b>\$710.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$690.00</b> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$100.00</b> <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				<b>\$ 1,000</b>	
				<b>\$ 130</b>	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	<b>21 - 20 =</b>	<b>1</b>	x <b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$ 180</b>	
Independent claims	<b>3 - 3 =</b>		x <b>\$80.00</b>	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ <b>\$270.00</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$ 1,310.00</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				+ <b>\$ 655.00</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$ 655.00</b>	
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				<b>\$ 655.00</b>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +				\$	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				<b>\$ 655.00</b>	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <b>655.00</b> to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <b>50-0614A</b> duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. <b>Credit card information should not be included on this form.</b> Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.					
<b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b>					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO <b>GREGORY C. SMITH GARVEY, SMITH, NEHRBASS &amp; DOODY, LLC 3838 N CAUSEWAY BLVD. SUITE 3290 METAIRIE, LA 70002 US PTO CUSTOMER NO. 22920</b>					
				SIGNATURE	
					
				NAME	
				<b>GREGORY C. SMITH</b>	
				<b>29,441</b>	
				REGISTRATION NUMBER	

8/pt/s

# WATER TREATMENT DEVICE AND METHOD

5

## SPECIFICATION

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

This present invention relates to a point of use water  
 10 purification unit designed to continuously and completely  
 purify water at all points of use such as homes,  
 restaurants, hotels, military, sea and field units as well  
 as desalination of sea water at the point of use. The  
 device will remove all chemicals, all microorganisms and  
 15 replete the water with essential ground minerals.

#### 2. General Background of the Invention

Pure water for consumption, use in cooking and to  
 maintain hygiene is a universal need. The purity and  
 safety of water is deteriorating world wide. Tap water is  
 20 no longer safe in major U.S. and foreign cities. It is  
 contaminated by microbes, chemicals, heavy metals and in  
 many instances ground water and sewage which gets into the  
 distribution systems which are old and dilapidated.  
 Improvement of municipal water treatment systems will be of  
 25 little benefit. In line filtration and treatment along the  
 distribution system will also be of little benefit because  
 the distribution systems are old, leaky and in some  
 instances are contaminated by lead joints. Pure water for  
 our cities is a big challenge which will not be soon  
 30 solved. It is therefore imperative that point of use water  
 purification for all of the water used in the home be the  
 immediate solution.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to  
 35 provide a device that will accomplish the function of  
 providing at the point of use a water treatment system that  
 can convert any water into microbe free, chemical free,

chlorine free, pleasant tasting, soft, mineral repleted water for the whole house, apartment, restaurant or other establishment.

5 Another object of the invention is to provide a system for water purification in which the feed water is preheated through a heat exchanger which takes energy from the systems refrigeration unit (condenser side) in order to conserve maximum energy.

10 Another object of this invention is to provide a thin water layer, centrifugal, vacuum chamber for degassing the feed water.

An additional object of this invention is to take advantage of the peculiar and little known physical character of degassed water. Pure water, when free of dissolved gases, may be heated above 100 degrees C (up to 15 180 degrees C.) without boiling, but upon further heating, boiling may occur with explosive violence. This steam at (100 degrees C.) occupies a volume 1700 times greater than water at 100 degrees C.

20 It is a further object of the invention to isolate the degassing chamber by a series of three (3) in line valves. These valves are electronic and controlled by the on board computer controller.

25 Another object of the invention is to heat the degassed feed water to 260 degrees F. under pressure and then spray it into a heated 350 degrees F. vacuum chamber, where it flash vaporizes in an explosive manner, thereby providing the pressure and vaporization to evacuate the chamber into the condenser.

30 Another object of the invention is to provide a brine chilled counter current heat exchanger at 20 degrees F. to condense the vaporized pressured steam to chemically and microbiologically pure water at ambient temperature.

35 An additional object of this invention is to provide a holding tank containing a UV light source to maintain a microbial free condition of the water and providing high water level and lower water level sensors to regulate

It is a further object of the invention to provide a booster pump which through in line pressure sensors will provide the desired pressure and flow throughout the system. This pressure and flow will be augmented by smaller in line pumps, if necessary.

An additional object of the invention is to provide an electronically heated (or other energy source) vegetable oil circulated through a jacket in the preheat heat exchanger and heated vacuum chamber.

20           An additional object of the invention is to provide a back wash capability for each part of the system which will contain a scale dissolving potable water for keeping the system clean. This back wash will be timed and sequenced by the computer processor.

Additional objects and advantages of the present invention will either be set forth in the description that follows, will be obvious from the description or may be learned by practice of the invention. The object and advantages of the invention may be obtained by the apparatus and method particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In accordance with the principles of the present invention as embodied and as broadly described herein, a point of use water purification unit is revealed which continuously and completely purifies water at all points of use such as homes, restaurants, hotels and military field units, as well as desalinates sea water at the point of use. The device will remove all chemicals, kill all microorganisms and replete the water with essential ground minerals. The device is comprised of a computer monitored and controlled system for degassing, super heating and exploding water into a vacuum chamber, in which instant steam results. The steam is condensed in a counter current cold brine apparatus and stored in a holding tank containing ultraviolet light and is evacuated to the point of use by a booster pump flowing through a mineral repleting column and a carbon filter for freshness and the assurance of the absence of off taste.

Containment means are provided for holding these various components together in a compact package. The entire unit is monitored and controlled by a series of sensors, drivers and a computer processor.

Preferably, the containment means and all components should be covered compact and packaged for ease of installation and simplicity of operation. The unit may be housed either indoors or outdoors.

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate the presently preferred embodiment of the invention and serve to explain the principles of the invention.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a further understanding of the nature, objects, and advantages of the present invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description, read in conjunction with the following drawings, wherein like reference numerals denote like elements and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a comprehensive schematic drawing of the entire unit with its various components as well as

indications as to the working mechanism.

FIGURE 2 is a detailed schematic of the intake water preheater unit which preheats the water from the cooling refrigeration unit condenser, showing the flow of hot gas and cool intake water in a counter current direction with the gas pipe being housed inside the water pipe.

FIGURE 3 is a detailed schematic of the degassing centrifugal vacuum chamber; one of four such chambers working on a batch principle and sequenced by a computer.

FIGURE 4 is a detailed schematic of the counter current heat exchanger which will bring the degassed water temperature to 260 degrees F. under pressure.

FIGURE 5 is a detailed schematic of the heated vacuum expansion chamber of the invention with its heat source and regulator valve mechanism.

FIGURE 6 is a detailed schematic of the brine counter current heat exchanger for cooling the steam distillate.

FIGURE 7 is a detailed schematic of the ambient temperature holding tank, with level sensors and ultraviolet treatment tanks.

FIGURE 8 is a detailed schematic of the filter tank: 1) mineral repletion column 2) carbon filter column.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

References will not be made in detail to the presently preferred embodiment of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Throughout the drawings, like referenced characters are used to designate like elements.

The water purification and conditioning unit of the invention are schematically illustrated in Figures 1-8. Figure 1 reveals a general schematic of the entire system of this invention. Raw water from the source comes into the system through conduit 1. In Figure 2, it then flows into counter current heat exchanger 2 where the water is preheated and the gas from the compressor is cooled. Water enters the heat exchanger 2 through conduit 1. The heated refrigerant enters the heat exchanger through conduit 2a

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which traverses the system inside conduit 2b. All of the conduits are held by attachment means 2c. This system flows in a counter current fashion and allows the most rapid heat exchanger feasible. Feed water then enters manifold 15 and is distributed to degassing pots 11 of Figure 3 through conduit 16 and controlled by valve 10 which is regulated by computer 38. The four degassing pots have an inner centrifugally operated pot 11i which is about four liters in size. The centrifugal motion is driven by a small high speed motor 11h on the bottom of the pot 11h. There is an outer housing an inflow valve 10, an outflow valve 14 and a vacuum valve 12. Water flows into the centrifugal chamber where it is spun at 3-5 thousand RPM contained in a vacuum of 18-20 inches by circular vacuum pump 9 for 10-20 seconds. The unit is then stopped and the vacuum valve closed, water drains in to manifold 40. The four degassing chambers are being sequenced by the computer such that one is always filling, one is emptying and the other two are spinning or pumping vacuum. The detailed operation of the degassing is as follows. Preheated feed water enters the degassing chamber through conduit 16, through valve 10 and enters the centrifugal chamber 11i through opening 11k of baffle 11j. Water is sprayed onto the walls of chamber 11i by rotary water jets 11d. Chamber 11i is rotated at 3-5000 RPM by motor 11h while a vacuum is maintained through conduit 17. The vacuum is protected from water by baffle 11j and 11b. Vacuum ports 11c are above baffle 11b. In sequence, vacuum is applied, centrifugal speed is maximum and water is injected onto the walls of 11i. Vacuum is released and the degassed water exits through conduit 13 and valve 14.

Degassed water then enters counter current heat exchanger 25 where it is heated to 260 degrees F. In Figure 4, heated vegetable oil at 260 degrees F. enters heat exchanger 25 through conduit 25b. Degassed water enters through conduit 40. Heated degassed water exits conduit 26 after picking up the heat in the counter current



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exchanger. The oil exits through conduit 25a to be reheated. Insulation 43 covers the heated oil conduits. The water then flows into conduit 26 where it is injected through valve 27 into the heated (360 degrees F.) vacuum expansion chamber. Figure 5 represents the heated vacuum expansion chamber 20. Degassed water at 250 degrees F. and 10 PSI pressure is injected through valve 27 and conduit 28 (which goes through baffle 20c) onto the wall of the chamber through ejection ports 20b. The inner surface of the chamber is 350 degrees F. Prior to the injection, a vacuum is pulled through conduit 23, which is shielded by baffle 20d. The vacuum is locked in by valves 24, 21 and 27. Valve 27 opens to inject the water. It then closes and 21 opens to allow exit for the steam through opening 22. The chamber then recycles. The water instantly vaporizes, leaving all residue behind as the steam ejects itself through valve 21 and conduit 22 into the counter current brine chiller 30. Figure 6 represents the brine counter current heat exchange for cooling the distillate. Steam enters the counter current heat exchanger through conduit 22. The chilled brine (20 degrees F.) enters in the opposite direction through conduit 30b. The condensed, cool, pure water exits through conduit 30a and the heat laden brine exits through conduit 30c to return to the chiller. The chilled brine conduits are insulated by covering 8. Free, microbe free water then drains into holding tank 31. Figure 7 represents the holding tank 31 for the purified water. Pure water enters that tank through conduit 31b. Level sensors 39 and 39a control the operation of the system. UV tubes 31a maintain a microbe free tank of pure water. Water is then pumped by pump 32 into filter bank. Water level sensor 39 sends data to the computer which controls the various activation areas of the system. The tank contains UV sterilizer lamps to assure continued microbe free water. The water is then taken to the point of use through pump 32. Figure 8 represents the filter bank of this invention which is made up of a mineral



What is claimed as invention is:

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method of purifying, comprising the following steps:  
2 a) providing a quantity of degassed water;  
3 b) heating the degassed water to at least 260  
4 degrees F.;  
5 c) injecting the heated degassed water into a  
6 vacuum chamber to superheat the water to at least 350  
7 degrees F.; and  
8 d) allowing the super heated degassed water to  
9 vaporize in an explosive fashion, evaporating rapidly and  
10 condensing in a counter current chiller.
- 1 2. The method in claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2 draining the condensed water into a holding tank.
- 1 3. The method in claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2 pumping the water out through a mineral column and a carbon  
3 column to replenish the trace minerals and remove any  
4 residual "off taste".
- 5 4. The method in claim 1, further comprising the step of  
6 attaching an incoming water line to a counter current heat  
7 exchanger to preheat the incoming water and cool the "high  
8 side" gas in a refrigeration unit.
- 1 5. The method in claim 4, wherein the heat exchanger  
2 further comprises a first counter current conduit contained  
3 within a gas conduit.

1 6. The method in claim 4, wherein the water incoming into  
2 the counter current exchanger is the same temperature as  
3 the exiting gas and the exiting water is the same  
4 temperature as the incoming gas.

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2 in a counter current chiller.

1 11. The system in claim 9, further comprising a mineral  
2 column and carbon column for replenishing the trace  
3 minerals and removing any residual "off taste" from the  
4 condensed water.

1 12. The system in claim 9, further comprising a  
2 containment means wherein the incoming water line is  
3 attached to a counter current heat exchange to preheat the  
4 incoming water and cool the "high side" gas in a  
5 refrigeration unit.

1 13. A point of use water purification system, comprising:  
2 a) means for heating degassed water to at least 260  
3 degrees F.;

4 b) a heated vacuum chamber for receiving the heated  
5 water and vaporizing the water in an explosive fashion;

6 c) means for condensing and cooling the water for  
7 consumption; and

d) means for replacing trace minerals in the water  
prior to consumption.

1 14. The system in claim 13, further comprising a heat  
2 exchanger further comprising, counter current conduits  
3 defining a water conduit on the inside of a gas conduit.

1 15. The system in claim 13, wherein the incoming water

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2 flowing into the counter current exchanger is the same  
3 temperature as the exiting gas and the exiting water is the  
4 same temperature as the incoming gas.

1 16. The system in claim 13, further comprising an  
2 electronically controlled valve for controlling the access  
3 of incoming water into a system, for maintaining or cutting  
4 off water in an emergency.

1 17. The system in claim 13, wherein there is provided a  
2 band of centrifugal vacuum chambers to a manifold and  
3 electronic valving system for receiving the condensed and  
4 cooled water.

1 18. The system in claim 13, further providing an  
2 electronically heated (or gas heated or other energy  
3 source) vegetable oil circulated through a jacket in the  
4 "preheat" heat exchanger and the heated vacuum chamber.

1 19. The system in claim 13, further providing an  
2 electrical refrigeration unit used to chill the brine of  
3 the counter current condensing chamber and to provide heat  
4 to the feed water "preheat" heat exchanger.

1 20. The system in claim 13, further providing a back wash  
2 system for each part of the system which contains a scale  
3 dissolving potable water for keeping the system clean; the  
4 back wash timed and sequenced by the computer processor.

1 21. The system in claim 13, wherein the unit provides at  
 2 least four (4) degassing centrifugal vacuum chambers and  
 3 four (4) heated vacuum vaporization chambers, each of which  
 4 operates as a batch process and is sequenced by the  
 5 computer controller as sensors indicate the unit is  
 6 operational from the stand point of temperature, pressure  
 7 or vacuum.

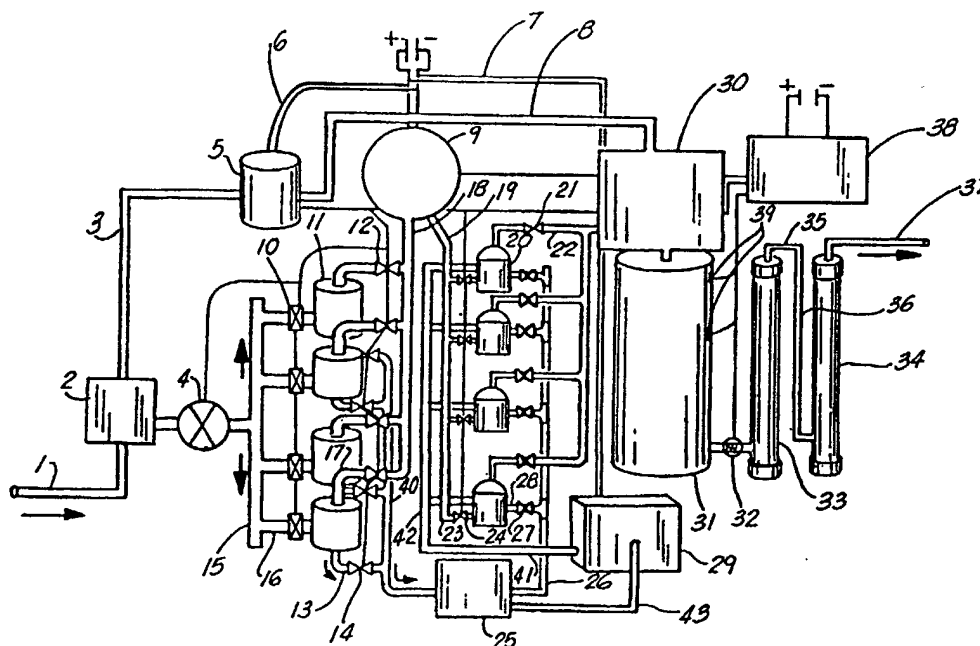


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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>B01D 3/06, 3/10, 3/42, C02F 1/06, 1/16, 1/20</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 97/49473</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 31 December 1997 (31.12.97)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US97/11261 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 27 June 1997 (27.06.97) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 60/022,015                      27 June 1996 (27.06.96)                      US <b>(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor:</b> HOLCOMB, Robert, R. [US/US]; Suite 1150, 2100 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203 (US). <b>(74) Agent:</b> SMITH, Gregory, C.; Pravel, Hewitt, Kimball & Krieger, 10th floor, 1177 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i>

**(54) Title:** WATER TREATMENT DEVICE AND METHOD**(57) Abstract**

A computer monitored and controlled system for degassing, superheating and exploding water into a vacuum chamber (20), in which instant steam results. The steam is condensed in a chilled countercurrent brine apparatus (30), stored in a holding tank (31) containing ultraviolet light and is evacuated to the point of use by a booster pump (32) flowing through a mineral regulating column (33) and a carbon

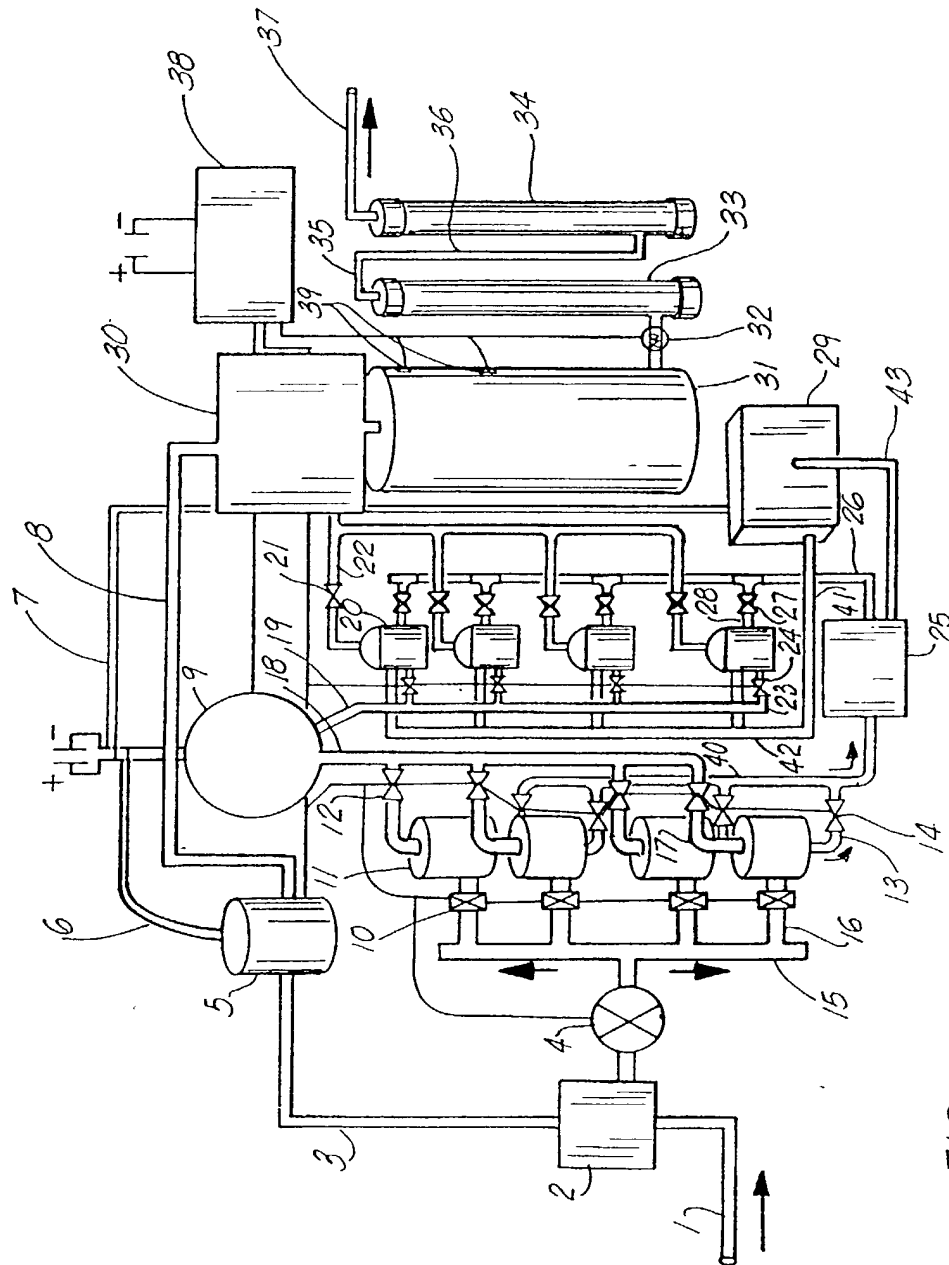


FIG. 1

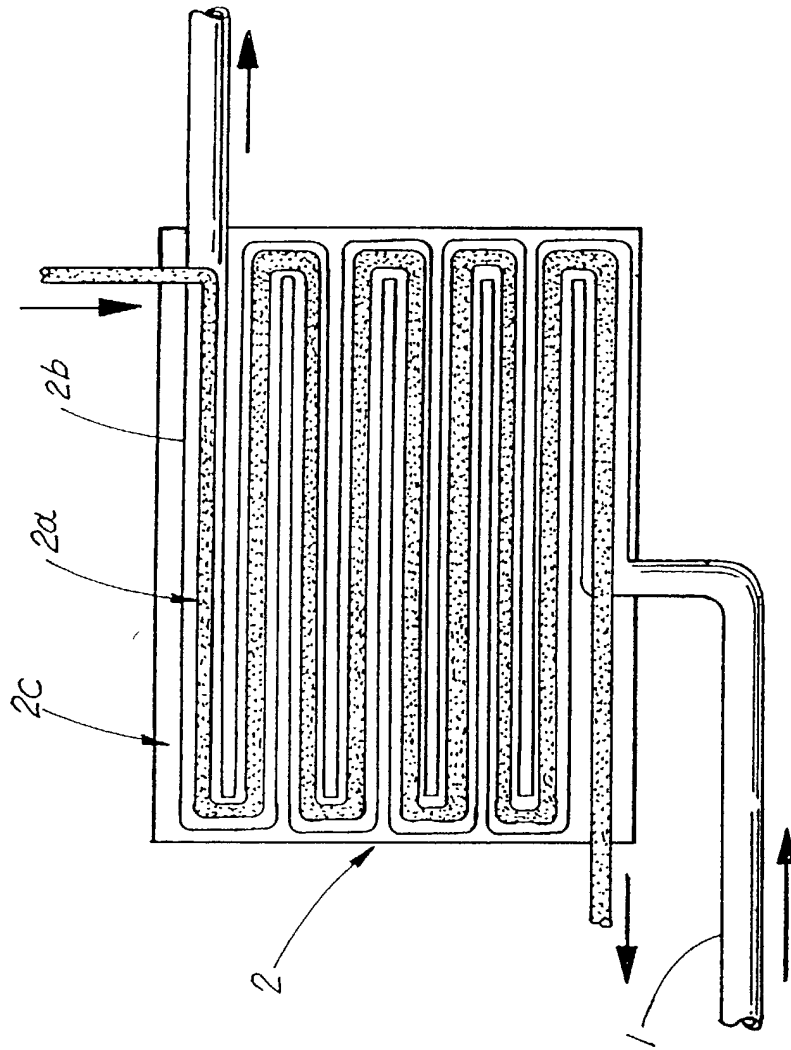


FIG. 2

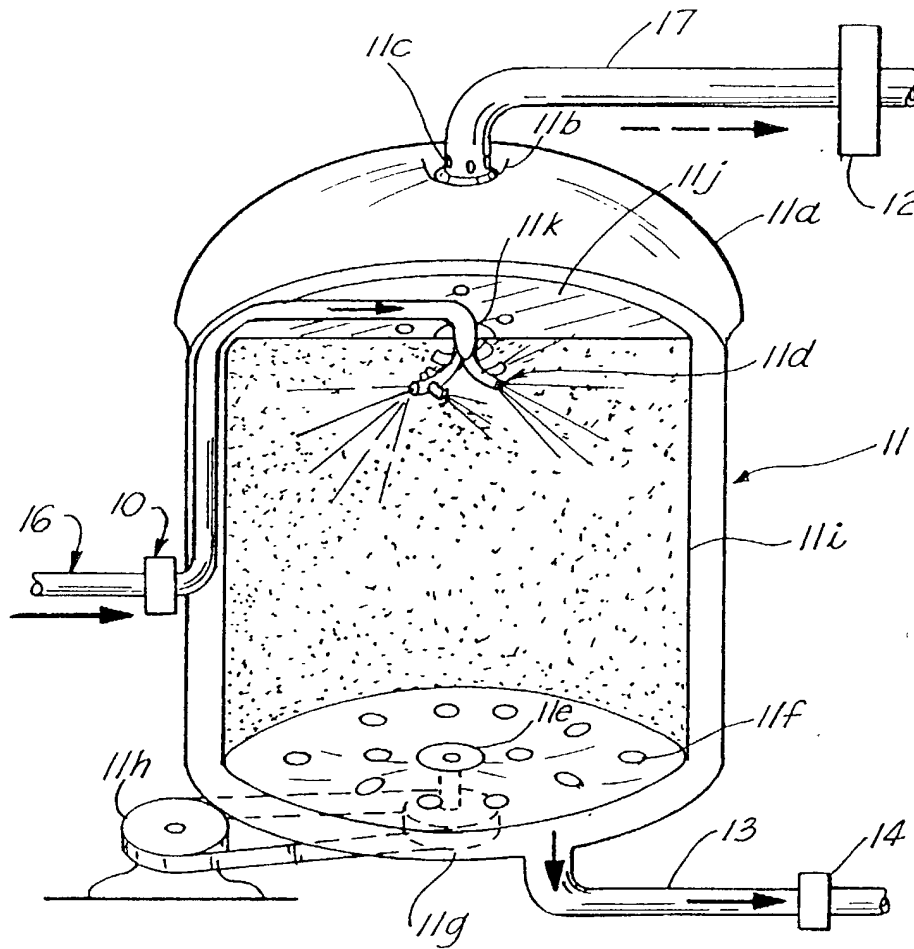
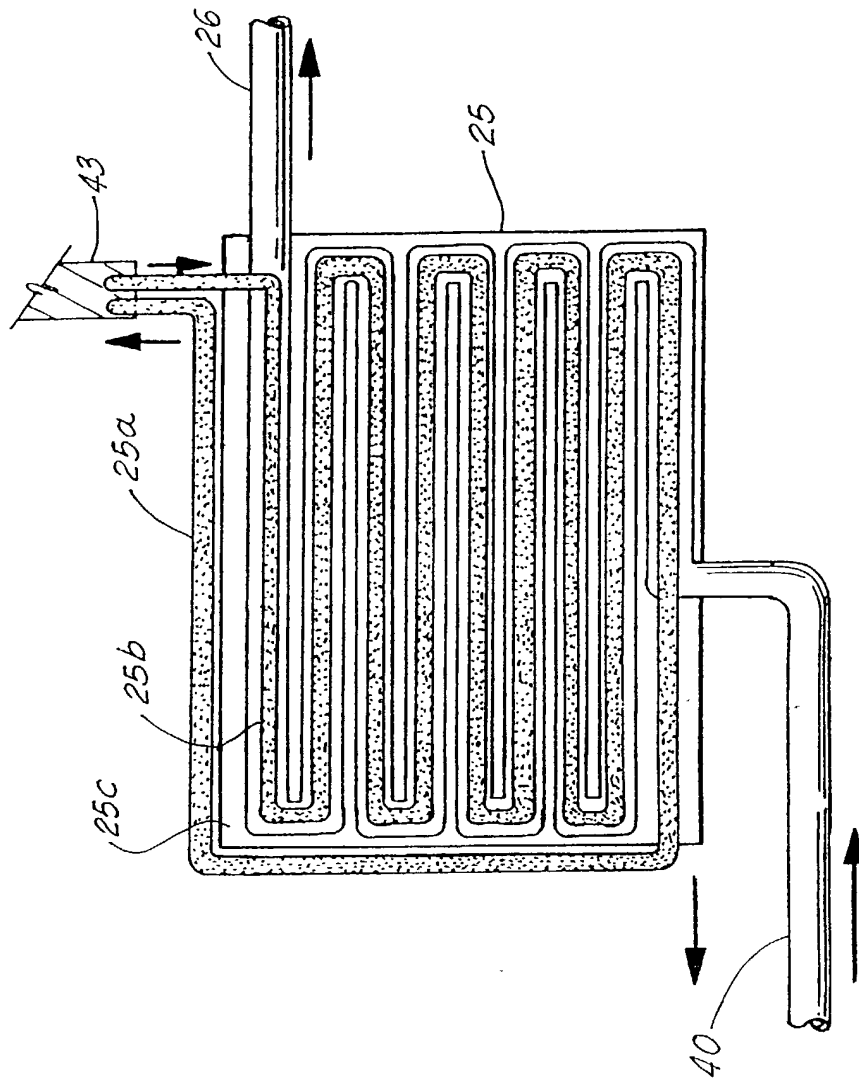
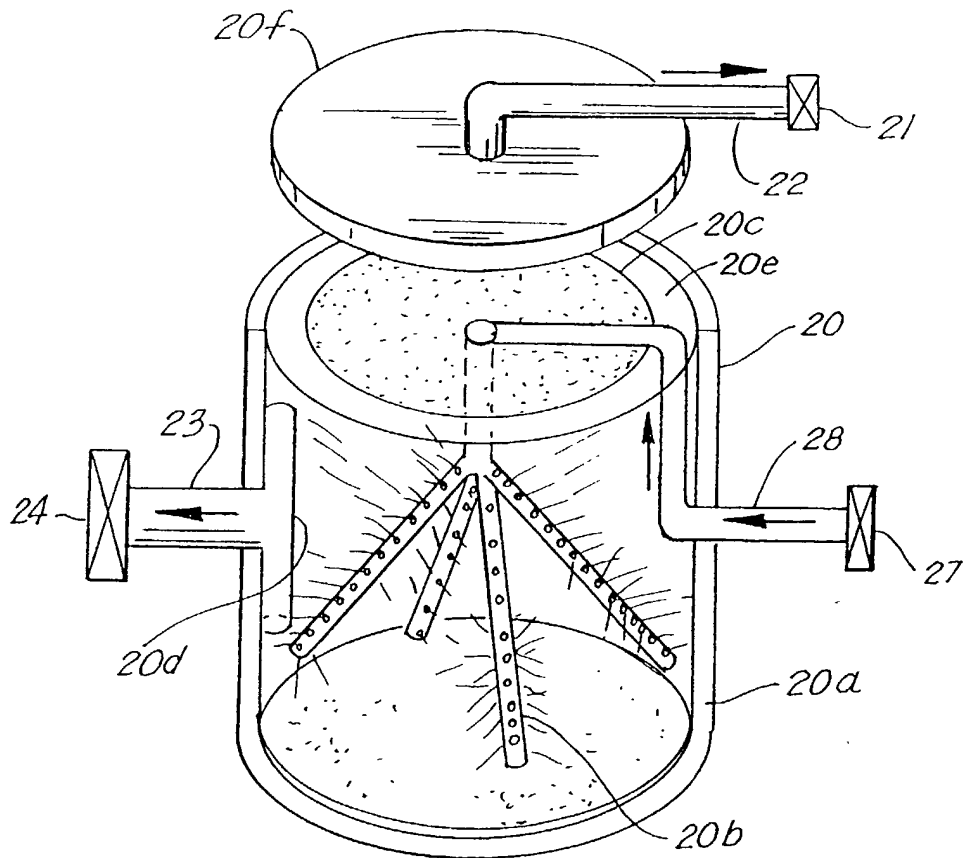


FIG. 3



FIG. 5

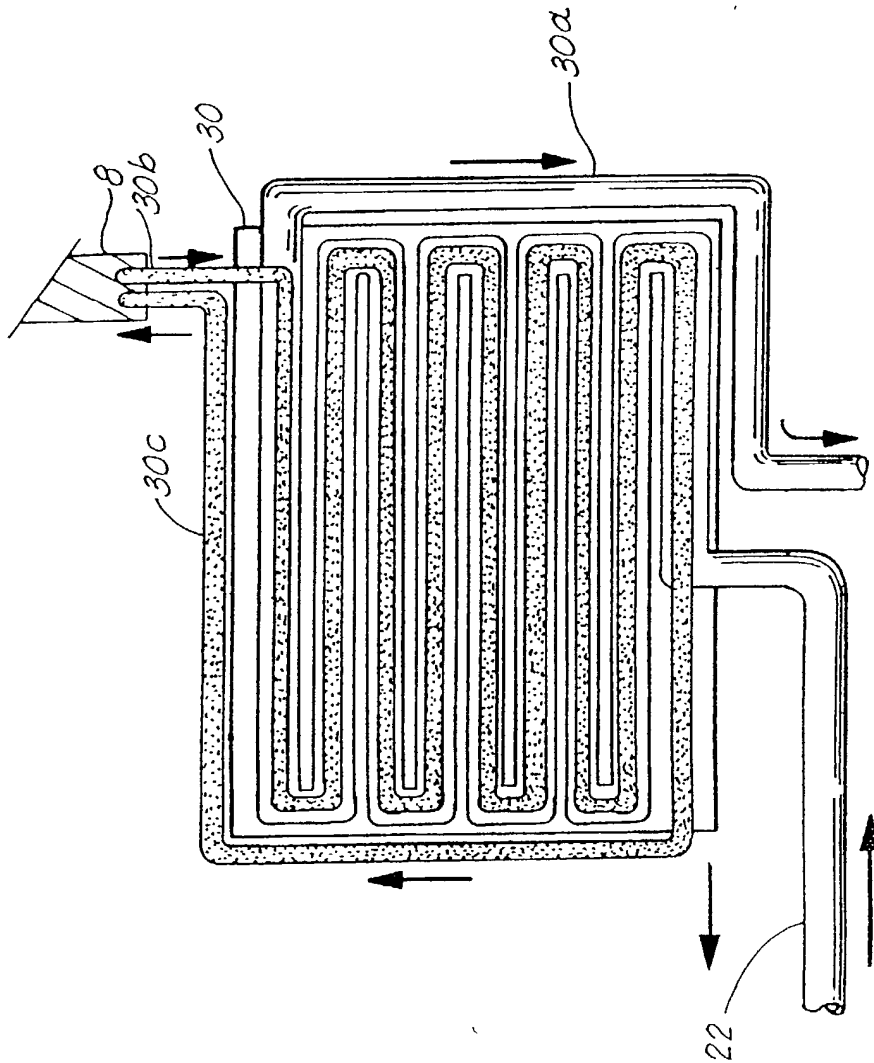


FIG. 6

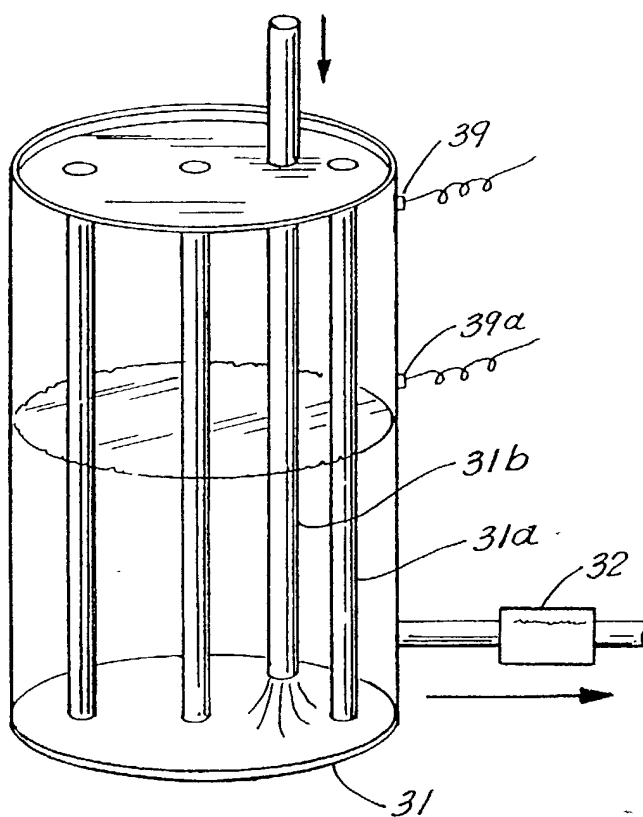


FIG. 7



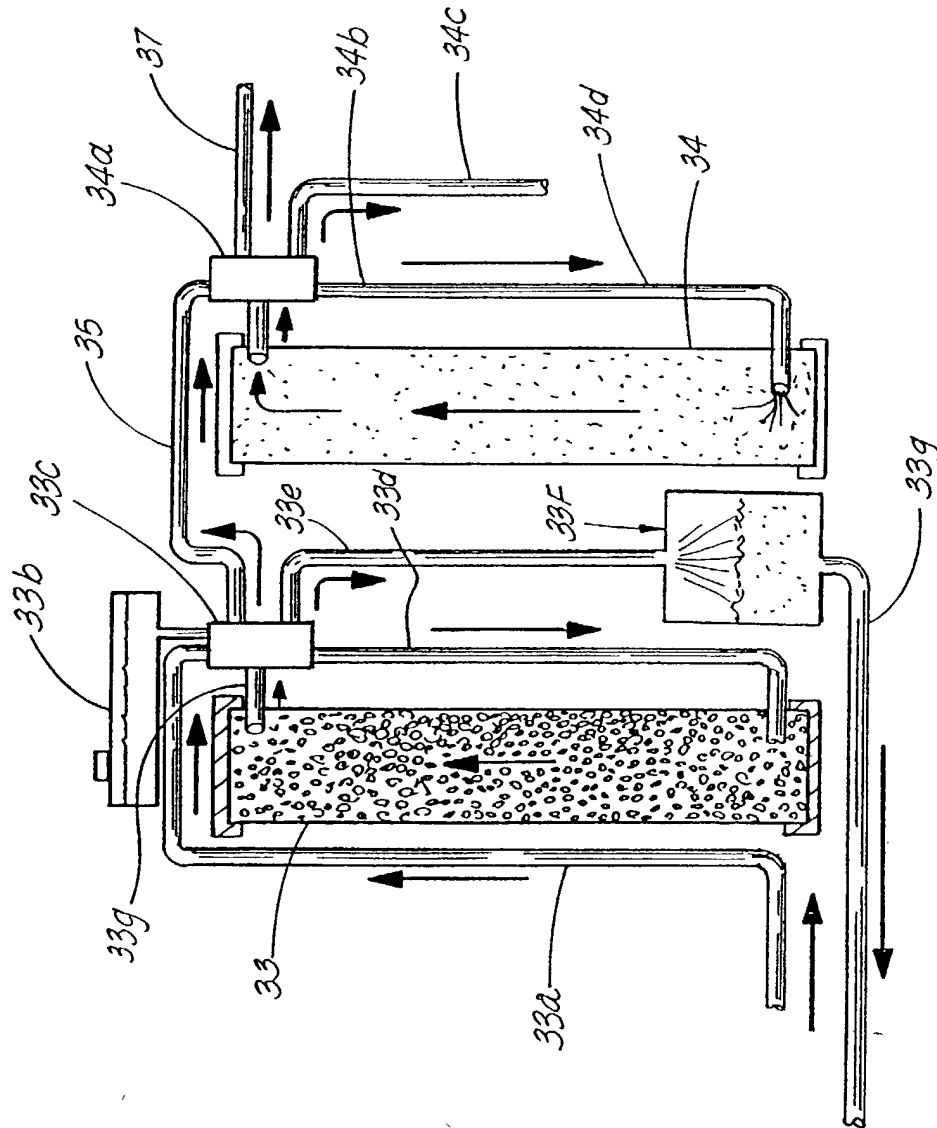


FIG. 8



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PTO/SB/01 (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-003:  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR  
DESIGN  
PATENT APPLICATION  
(37 CFR 1.63)**Declaration  
Submitted  
with Initial  
Filing

OR

Declaration  
Submitted after Initial  
Filing (surcharge  
(37 CFR 1.16 (e))  
required)**Attorney Docket Number**

A96158US

**First Named Inventor**

Robert R. Holcomb

**COMPLETE IF KNOWN****Application Number**

09/914,402

**Filing Date**

06/27/1997

**Art Unit****Examiner Name**

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**Water Treatment Device and Method**

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which



is attached hereto

OR



was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

06/27/1997--

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

US97/11261

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

PTO/SB/01 (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB C 651-0032

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**DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application**Direct all correspondence to: ☒Customer Number  
or Bar Code Label

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: ☐

A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

 Given Name Robert R.  
 (first and middle (if any))

 Family Name Holcomb  
 or Surname

 Inventor's  
 Signature *Robert R. Holcomb*

 Date 7/16/2002

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NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: ☐

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 or Surname

 Inventor's  
 Signature

Date

Residence: City

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Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP

Country

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the \_\_\_\_\_ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.